

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ootake (U.S. Patent No. 6,698,192). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The present application claims priority to German Application 102 330945.7, filed on July 25, 2002. The filing date of Ootake is November 26, 2002, which is after the foreign priority date of this application. Accordingly, Ootake is not a valid prior art reference to this application. Attached hereto is a verified English translation of the priority application to perfect applicant's claim for priority. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.

449122076800.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Verified Translation of Priority Document